(d) and (e) The ESI Corporation has undertaken the following projects for expansion of facilities and development of hospitals:

(i) Upgradation and modernization of ESIC Model Hospital, Jaipur at a cost of Rs. 128.70 crores;

(ii) Construction of a new hospital at Bhiwadi at a cost of Rs. 18.10 crores.

Companies in loss cannot own PF trust

355. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether companies in loss for three years can't have own PF trust;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to protect the subscribers in such cases especially in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Employees Provident Funds Scheme, 1952 lays down regulations with respect to only those Provident Fund Trusts, which qualify for exemption. As per condition No. 25 for grant of exemption under paragraph 27 AA of the Scheme, an establishment reporting loss for three consecutive years or erosion in their capital base, shall have their exemption withdrawn from the financial year following the three consecutive years where losses were reported.

(c) As soon as the information is received about the three consecutive financial years' losses suffered by an establishment covered under the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 in any part of the country (except Jammu and Kashmir), including Andhra Pradesh, action is taken to withdraw the exemption granted after following the prescribed procedure. Since trust is a separate legal entity, the existing money in the trust is well protected and any loss in the company will not have any adverse impact on the trust's money.

Beedi workers in the country

356. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of beedi workers in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government has any assessment that how many beedi workers have lost their jobs in the last four years; and

(c) whether Government implemented any schemes for the rehabilitation of such workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) The number of estimated beedi workers in the country is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) No, Sir.